

Colorado Mason looks at revitalization and general decline in memberships

Masonic renewal is a term widely used in the Fraternity today. It is derived from efforts to build a successful organization based on concepts and practices taught in the Total Quality Management (TQM) movement started by W. Edwards Deming in Japan several decades ago.

TQM practices have been adopted in many companies and government agencies. In most cases, improvements are being achieved by focusing on the customer, empowering employees to satisfy customer needs, and re-vamping internal processes to facilitate customer service.

Coupled with this is strategic planning and implementation follow-up where results are tracked and measured. This, in a nutshell, is what TQM is all about.

However, in some organizations this movement has risen and fallen because too much was expected without properly training and developing the work force and improving human interrelationships. This led to too much wasted effort and fanfare with too little in the way of developing a social contract among and between individuals in the organization.

In the Masonic Fraternity, we have a strong social contract. We have a core set of principles which are based on upright and moral living. We are charitable both in thought and deed. We practice tolerance and believe in the brotherhood of man. Our social contract establishes a solid foundation and a prescription for success.

Many men today are beginning to seek something more meaningful than just the work-a-day world in their lives. They are

+ League of Women Voters-down 42% between 1969 and 1994

+ PTAs-down 42% between 1964 and 1994.

The statistics show that people, whether male, or female, do not participate in organizations as they once did. Yet, there is growing recognition by many that something is seriously wrong in our society-that we are becoming socially and technologically isolated from each other.

In the work place, for example, we now communicate impersonally by e-mail and video conference, where once we met face to face. There are advantages and economies

to the electronic age of communication; it has become a necessary and irreplaceable part of our lives, but there is also a price to pay. Our discretionary or nonwork hours are also being dominated by the electronic age.

In the January 1995 issue of the Journal of Democracy, Robert D. Putnam, a professor at Harvard University, states, "There is reason to believe that deep-seated technological trends are radically 'privatizing' or 'individualizing' our use of leisure time and thus disrupting many opportunities for social-capital formation."

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Grand Master's Schedule — February 1 through April 15, 1996

(District Meetings in **bold** type — *men only)

FEBRUARY

Thur. 1 District 32 Haller Lake #296 @ Seattle Dinner 6:30 Stated 7:30 p.m.

Fri. 2 Crab Feed Walter F. Meier No. 281 @ Seattle *Sat. 3 Executive Committee/ Jurisprudence/Code Commission @ MRC

Tue. 6 @ 7:30 p.m. Stated Dayton #26

Wed. 7 District 4 Greenwood #253 @ Seattle Dinner 6:30 Stated 7:30 p.m

Thur. 8 Grand Master Reception Scottish Rite Spokane Riverside Center

Sat. 10 @ 2:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner & All Masonic Night at Kennewick

Tue. 13 District 29 Odessa #156 @ Odessa 6:30 dinner 8:00 Stated

Thur 15 District 30 Colville # 50 @ Colville 6:30 dinner 7:00 Stated

Sat. 17 Through Wed. 21 Grand Masters Conference @ Washington, D.C.

Sun. 25 @ 9:00 a.m. Masonic Family Coordinating Council @ M.R.C.

Mon. 26 @ 2:00 p.m. Library/Museum Foundation @ M.R.C.

7:00 p.m. M.R.C. Trustees

*Tue. 27 @ 7:30 p.m. Sultan #179 Stated Meeting

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Many men today are beginning to seek something more meaningful than just the work-a-day world in their lives. They are starting to search for a viable alternative to the declining moral and impersonal environment of society. Freemasonry is in a key position at the right time in history to offer what these men seek.

Yet, we are all very aware of our serious membership problem. A review of some relevant statistics shows where we stand.

Between 1983 and 1993, Colorado Masonic membership declined by almost 34%, or one third. During this period we raised one Master Mason for each four Masons we lost.

Between 1984 and 1994, nationwide membership in the Scottish Rite declined by about 24%.

We are not alone. Membership in other fraternal and civic groups has fallen as shown below:

- + Lions-down 12% between 1983 and 1994
- + Elks-down 18% between 1979 and 1994
- + Jaycees-down 44% between 1979 and 1994
- + Boy Scouts-down 26% between 1970 and 1994
- * Red Cross-down 61% between 1970 and 1994
- + National Federation of Women's Clubs-down 59% between 1964 and 1994

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Wed. 28 Gavel Society @ Vancouver, British Columbia

MARCH

Fri., Sat. 1 & 2 Western Masonic Conference @ Portland, Oregon

Mon. 4 District 26 Sprague # 40 @ Sprague 6:30 dinner 8:00 p.m. Stated

*Tue. 5 @ 7:30 p.m. Dayton Lodge No. 26 Stated @ 7:30 p.m.

*Thur. 7 @ 8:00 p.m. Temple Lodge # 42 @ Cheney Stated

Fri. 8 @ 6:00 p.m. Appreciation Dinner Audubon Park Lodge #272

Mon. 11 @ 8:00 p.m. Waitsburg #16 Stated

Thur. 14 Amaranth Grand Court @ Everett

*Fri.-Sat.-Sun. 15, 16, 17 **Wardens Retreat** at Sea/Tac Holiday Inn

Mon. 18 District 16 Wynoochie #43 @ Wynoochie 6:30 -dinner Stated 8

Tue. 19 District 18 Kalama #17 at Qualm 6:30 dinner 7:30 Stated

Wed. 20 @ 7:30 p.m. Delta White Center @ Kent

Thur. 21 Occidental Lodge No. 172 *Sat. 23 Wardens Competition Des Moines Lodge

#245 Area Code 360 & 206 Mon. 25 @ 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee @ M.R.C. 7:00

p.m. M.R.C. Trustees @ M.R.C. *Tue. 26 @ 7:30 p.m. Scottish Rite @ Walla Walla *Sat.

30 Wardens Competition Riverside Temple Spokane Area Code 509

APRIL

Wed. 3 District 21 Riverside #112 @ Wenatchee 6:30 8:00 Stated

Thur. 4 District...33 Newport #144 @ Newport 6:30 dinner 7:30 Stated

Sat. 6 Golf Tournament @ Auburn

Mon. 8 District 10 Ferndale #264 @ Ferndale 6:30 dinner 7:30 Stated

Tue. 9 District 15 Valley #71 @ Orting 6:30 Dinner 8:00 Stated

*Wed. 10 @ 7:30 p.m. Stated Mark P. Waterman #177

*Thur. 11 @ 7:30 p.m. Stated George Washington #251 S/R Center Seattle

Sat. 13 York Rite Grand Master Reception @ Yakima/ Library Museum Foundation @ Yakima

Mon. 15 District 19 North Bank #182 @ Washougal 6:30 dinner 7:30 Stated

Masonic Renewal *(from page eight)*

Professor Putnam defines social capital as the "features of social organization such as networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit." He and a growing number of social scientists are promoting the theory that social connections and civic engagement pervasively influence our public and private lives—that they change the way we associate with one another for good or ill.

In fact, beyond this group of social scientists, many are gaining in awareness that our culture and our civil society are paying too high a price for this attitude of noninvolvement and self-centered action. The period of relying on the government and others to solve our problems and to substitute for the individual in "the pursuit of happiness" is coming to an end.

The United States has embarked on a revolution calling for less government and more local and private involvement. This will expand to the citizenry in the form of more involvement in the community and in organizations such as the Fraternity. We need to position ourselves to be ready for this revolution in civic involvement.

Many Masons, including this one, are concerned about the declining membership trends in worthwhile organizations. However, declining membership is not the central issue upon which we in the Fraternity should focus. Our primary concern should be focused on maintaining high standards and in improving ourselves and our Fraternity. If it isn't, the Fraternity will not be attractive to men searching for a meaningful alternative.

All this is why Masonic renewal is so important. A major result should be an even-

spair and sadness about our situation. To use Brother Norman Vincent Peale's words, we need a huge dose of "The Power of Positive Thinking."

This means commitment and dedication, not to change for the sake of change, but to advance the purposes of the Fraternity. Ma-

sonic renewal is the vehicle for helping us to do this. We do indeed have what it takes!

(Article from Scottish Rite publication by Vernon B. Ingraham, Past Master of Rob Morris Lodge No. 92, Denver, Colorado).

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*If at first you do succeed . . .
try to hide your astonishment!*

We Need Your Help . . . To Help Ourselves



DeMolay



. . .the cornerstone of the next generation!

A recent study showed that only 17% of young men nationwide are aware of the Masonic fraternity. 95% of DeMolay members not only know about Freemasonry, but hold it in high regard! Many of them go on to join our organization. In a recent class of one hundred initiates into Scottish Rite and the Shrine, nearly half were Senior DeMolays. This is an astonishing number and one that needs and deserves your support now and in the future for DeMolay to remain strong.

The young men who are DeMolay members are the lifeblood of our fraternity. We need to cultivate the honor of being a DeMolay to more young men so they're able to carry on the same sense of values you have. We're asking for your contribution now to help ensure these values are passed on to future generations. Your generosity in responding to this appeal gives DeMolay and Freemasonry a future filled with hope and promise.

Your tax deductible contribution to the Washington DeMolay Foundation will support educational scholarships, leadership training programs, membership promotion activities, advisor training, assistance with annual meet-

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All this is why Masonic renewal is so important. A major result should be an eventual increase in membership. It must be remembered, however, that this is a lengthy process-better characterized as a long-run journey rather than a short-run destination.

So, what do we do?

+ First, we need to reaffirm individually and with one another who we are and what our purpose is. We need to be open with non-Masons about who we are.

+ Second, Masonic renewal discussion that is organized and well led and facilitated is an excellent beginning to activate renewal. Younger Masons under the age of 50 (preferably 46) need to commit to this activity. Masonic leadership needs to do a better job at getting these younger members involved.

+ Third, we need to develop and implement plans that support Masonic renewal. This will involve training, developing and implementing plans, focusing work on specific goals and objectives, and learning from successes and failures along the way.

+ Fourth, we need to assert ourselves in a positive public awareness program. Through such a program, we need to inform the public about our charitable work and our work as a fraternity.

We need to be reinvigorated with a sense of excitement and enthusiasm instead of de-

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The WASHINGTON DEMOLAY FOUNDATION is a 501(c)3 charitable and educational foundation.



I wish to make a contribution to the WASHINGTON DEMOLAY FOUNDATION

Name -----

Address -----

(Optional) My gift is in memory of -----

Send acknowledgment to (name and address) -----

☐ I would like more information on how to help myself while helping to provide for the future of Washington DeMolay through the use of life insurance, life income gift arrangements, will, gifts of securities, trusts or real estate.

Please send to: Washington DeMolay Foundation
222 Williams Ave. S. Suite 111
Renton, WA 98055

Or call (206) 226-4223 or toll free 1-800-423-5825

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F & A Masons GL Washington

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